



United States Department of the Interior FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

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Kathi Stopher Receives the WAFWA Federal Conservation Partner of the Year Award

Congratulations to Kathi Stopher, Visitor Services Manager at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, who was recently awarded the Federal Conservation Partner of the Year Award by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Association. In his nomination letter, Greg Sheehan, Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, said that, "Kathi exemplifies the ideal conservation partner. She has demonstrated her extraordinary creativity, dedication and leadership through the Mountain Wilds to Wetland Wonders (MWWW) Education Program, a unique education partnership between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Since its inception in 2006, the MWWW program has helped more than 10,000 students explore the habits and habitats of Utah wildlife. By Kathi's design, the MWWW program uses the watershed as a unifying theme, one that connects wildlife, habitats and human interactions on the landscape. Kathi's influential leadership in conservation education reaches far beyond the boundaries of the MWWW program and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Others within the Service and Utah's conservation education community often approach Kathi for advice on how to establish, lead and maintain critical state and federal partnerships. She is an exemplary collaborator, guiding on-the-ground work that reaches the goals of both state and federal agencies. As a result, potential partners of all types - federal, state, NGO, and academic - gravitate to Kathi for assistance in their conservation outreach efforts.

